

Thu Sep 25 14:43:58 EDT 2014  
Yuhas.Darlene@epamail.epa.gov  
FW: Request for Meeting w/Gina McCarthy  
To: CMS.OEX@epamail.epa.gov; CMS.Sched@epamail.epa.gov; Kukla.Alison@epamail.epa.gov; Gaines.Cynthia@epamail.epa.gov

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For cms and scheduling. thanks

**From:** Lois Gibbs [mailto:lgibbs@chej.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 25, 2014 2:04 PM  
**To:** Mccarthy, Gina  
**Cc:** Lois Gibbs  
**Subject:** Request for Meeting w/Gina McCarthy



Center for Health, Environment & Justice  
P.O. Box 6806 • Falls Church, VA 22040 • Phone: 703.237.2249 • Fax: 703.237.8389 • [www.chej.org](http://www.chej.org)

September 25, 2014

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy  
USEPA Headquarters  
c/o Regina McCarthy  
William Jefferson Clinton Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.  
**Mail Code:** 1101A  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

It is a pleasure to address you today, although I regret that it has to be under such dire circumstances. As you certainly are familiar with by now, the state of Missouri has experienced more than its fair share of problems in recent months. One of the most pressing of these issues, and the reason why I am writing to you, is the public health crisis caused by Republic Services' Bridgeton and West Lake landfills in St. Louis. My organization, the Center for Health, Environment & Justice (CHEJ) has worked closely with Just Moms STL in addressing this disaster.

A fire has been burning uncontrolled inside the Bridgeton Landfill for over four years and has threatened to spread into the adjacent West Lake Landfill which contains radioactive waste. This nightmare scenario is now a reality, with the fire on the move and nearing the radioactive contaminants. As a result a public meeting was held on Tuesday September 18 to discuss what to do in case that the fire reaches the radioactive materials and releases smoke, soot and radioactive materials into the neighborhood. The county's Director of Emergency Management Mark Dietrich told residents, "alerts would go out for residents to shelter in place under a worst case scenario". He added that, "If radioactive ash falls over a widespread area, there could be calls for an evacuation." I believe that it is self-evident that if a Hiroshima-like nuclear disaster occurs in St. Louis, "sheltering in place" will do absolutely nothing to help the residents.

The damage to the public health of the residents in St. Louis is not limited to a potential radioactive threat in the near future – sadly, it has already been done and it has claimed lives. This week, a study was released by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) that analyzed cancer incidence data in eight (8) zip codes around the Coldwater Creek area, including the zip code(s) surrounding the Bridgeton and West Lake Landfills, from 1996-2011. The results of this study are truly scary. The incidence of several types of cancers including leukemia, breast, colon, prostate and kidney cancers to name only a few, was found to be significantly higher in the entire region. In the areas surrounding the landfills, the incidence of brain and other nervous system cancers in children was three times higher than normal. Three times.

Missouri has pleaded with the Agency for Toxics, Disease and Registry (ATSDR) to perform a more extensive study to ascertain the full extent of the damage caused by the landfills. God only knows what other statistically unnatural mortal health conditions they will find within this area. The damage has been done. People and many a children have died. At this point, it's a matter of righting a wrong especially for those who are exposed daily.

It is for this reason, I call on you to personally step in and help CHEJ and Just Moms STL to prevent any more deaths. I respectfully ask for a face-to-face meeting with you to discuss how to safeguard the health of the residents of St. Louis and prevent any more deaths. As your EPA Regional Office has failed to address this in a timely manner, forcing the State Attorney General to step in and demand that they take immediate action, I feel that it is imperative to meet with you personally and discuss the situation and so that together with community leaders we can come up with a solution to this public health crisis.

I look forward to your prompt response, to setting a date in the near future (next 30 days) for our meeting. The fire is moving toward the radioactive wastes, children are dying from brain cancer and "shelter in place" is not a responsible solution to the unknown. There is a need for immediate action.

I can be reached at 703- 942-8214 (direct line) Office 703-237-2249 ext. 130 or through e-mail at [lgibbs@chej.org](mailto:lgibbs@chej.org).

Yours truly,



Lois M. Gibbs

Executive Director

Center for Health Environment & Justice

Lois Marie Gibbs, Ph.D.

Executive Director

Center for Health, Environment & Justice

(O) 703-237-2249 ext. 130 (F) 703-237-8389

Center for Health, Environment & Justice

Mentoring a Movement, Empowering people, Preventing harm

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Paul M. Hall



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Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois M. Gibbs". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lois" being the most prominent.

Lois M. Gibbs  
Executive Director  
Center for Health Environment & Justice

